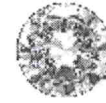


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Moissanite's brilliance, hardness, weight and scratch resistance rival other gemstones, and it possesses all the romance and passion of rubies, emeralds and sapphires. And it is more rare, found only in meteorites and in limited areas beneath the earth's surface.

Natural sources of silicon carbide are rare, and only certain atomic arrangements are useful for gemological applications. Recently, single-crystalline silicon carbide, in certain forms, has been used for the fabrication of high-performance semiconductor devices. North Carolina-based Cree Research, Inc., founded in 1987, has developed a commercial process for producing large single crystals of silicon carbide using technology originally developed at North Carolina State University and licensed to Cree on an exclusive basis. Cree is the world leader in the growth of single crystal silicon carbide.

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